

General Business Licenses

Local Business License

Many counties and municipalities require a business license to do business in their jurisdictions. Some may require a business license and some may not, you will want to directly contact the county and city in which you want to do business. Most county and city contact information can be found through the links below.

- [County Website Listings](#)
- [Business Licensing Handbook](#) (courtesy of the Municipal Association of SC)
- [County Licensing & Zoning](#)
- [City and Towns in SC](#)

Licenses or registrations that are commonly thought of as a business or state license are typically the following:

SC Secretary of State (SCSOS)

Entity Registration: If your business is a limited partnership, corporation or limited liability company/limited liability partnership, you must first register with the SC Secretary of State's Office. Registering with the Secretary of the State is now made possible online through SCBOS [here](#). This is not a business license.

You will need to decide on a business structure first. For more information on business structures, check out the [US Small Business Administration's website](#).

sos.sc.gov Phone (803)734-2158 Email: scbos@sos.sc.gov

SC Dept of Revenue (SCDOR)

The following are examples of licenses to collect and remit taxes, they are not business licenses:

Sales Tax License: Any business selling products or certain services (laundry and dry cleaning, electricity and communications) must obtain a Retail License from the Dept of Revenue for each location. You can register and pay the \$50.00 license fee online at [MyDORWAY](#).

dor.sc.gov/tax/sales Phone: (803)898-5000 Email: SalesTax@dor.sc.gov

Use Tax License: If you are in business and not selling at retail, you may still have a need to register for South Carolina Use Tax. Use tax is due on purchases of goods made from outside of South Carolina on which the SC Sales Tax was not paid. This includes purchases made via internet, catalog or mail order. Examples of businesses that may need to register would include contractors, doctors, dentists, and attorneys. You can register for free online at [MyDORWAY](https://mydorway.com).

dor.sc.gov/tax/use Phone: (803)898-5000 Email: SalesTax@dor.sc.gov

Accommodations License: If you are renting out property such as a hotel, motel, vacation home, etc. you will need to register for an Accommodations License for each location. You can register and pay the \$50.00 license fee online at [MyDORWAY](https://mydorway.com).

dor.sc.gov/tax/accommodations Phone: (803)898-5970 Email: AccTax@dor.sc.gov

SC Dept of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (LLR)

Some professions require a professional or occupational license. A few examples would be barbers, counselors, contractors, real estate brokers, etc. These would be obtained through the SC Dept of Labor, Licensing and Regulation's Division of Professional and Occupational Licensing.

llr.state.sc.us Phone: (803) 896-4300 Email: contactllr@llr.sc.gov